

Dear Senator Osten and Representative Walker:

My name is Wilfred Blanchette and I am a member of the Board of Directors of Reliance Health, a non profit serving the people of eastern Connecticut.

Each of you may have memories of my pleas for funding for issues that generally arise from underfunding the core functions of government that provide essential services to the most needy and vulnerable in our society.

Connecticut has wisely taken advantage of the many effective non profits in this state to the benefit of the population served. Arguably, the non profits provide the same or better services than official government agencies at much lower cost. In many cases preventing or diverting people away from law enforcement or Judicial realms. Everyone understands this and endorses this.

My plea to you today is simply to compare the inflation rate (from 2007 to today,) with the rate of salary increases given to State of Connecticut workers (during the same period) then juxtapose both of them on the chart that reflects the funding for non profits. By any view, the non profits lose. When they lose, the people that they serve lose and the result will be felt in higher funding for law enforcement, corrections and other remedial efforts.

We need money to pay the very employees who tirelessly care for the most downtrodden and essentially helpless people that we serve. Perhaps you could consider even closing another correctional facility.

Thank you